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HALL, Edward HAGAMANE

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HISTORY OF THE EFFORT TO COMBINE
INTO ONE SOCIETY THE

Descendants of Revolutionary Sires

BY EDWARD HAGAMAN HALL, L. H. M., L. H. D.



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HISTORY OF THE EFFORT TO COMBINE INTO ONE
SOCIETY THE DESCENDANTS OF REVOLUTIONARY
SIRES.*

By Edward Hagaman Hall, L.H.M., L.H.D.

A movement for the union of the NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION and the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution began very soon after the formation of the NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION in 1889; but the overtures of the National Officers of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION were not cordially reciprocated by those of the other Society, and little progress toward union was made for three years. The agitation of the subject, however, set in operation in the Society of the Sons of the Revolution influences favorable to an amalgamation, one of the fruits of which was the abolition of the "auxiliary" clause in their constitution which had been the bone of so much contention, and the adoption of a form of organization based more nearly on the representative American idea. About this time, several of the larger and more influential State Societies of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION received invitations from Societies of the Sons of the Revolution in New York and elsewhere to join their General Society. Our Societies, so invited, feeling that as State Societies they could not, in good faith with their associates, accept such invitations, replied that they could unite with the Society of the Sons of the Revolution only under a union of both Gen-

*Reprinted from the Register for 1899 of the Empire State Society Sons of the American Revolution, for the information of those wishing to know the cause of the existence of more than one Society for the perpetuation of the memory of Revolutionary ancestors,

eral Societies, upon terms mutually to be agreed upon. At length, after receiving distinct assurances, privately but repeatedly, that such a movement was actually desired by the Sons of the Revolution, the Connecticut delegates to the Annual Congress of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION held in New York City, April 30, 1892, introduced the following resolution, which was adopted without dissent:

WHEREAS: There now exist in several States of the Union, Societies of the Sons of the Revolution and Societies of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION; and

WHEREAS: The purpose and objects of these Societies are identical and their interests mutual; therefore

Resolved, That this organization hereby appoints Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut, together with the Presidents of the State Societies of this organization in those States where both organizations exist, as a committee to consider union; and the Sons of the Revolution are hereby cordially and earnestly invited to appoint a similarly constituted committee of an equal number, in the sincere belief that by such a conference all difficulties can be overcome and a fraternal union of both organizations will be the happy result.

A copy of the foregoing resolution was transmitted to the Sons of the Revolution, with the result that they took similar action. During the ensuing nine months, the committees appointed by the two Societies held frequent meetings, separately and jointly, at last agreeing to the following report which was submitted to the respective societies at general conventions held simultaneously in different rooms in the Mutual Life Building, New York City, February 16, 1893. At this time, the SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION existed in over thirty states and numbered nearly 4,000 members, while the Society of the Sons of the Revolution existed in ten states with a membership stated to be 2,364.

To

GENERAL HORACE PORTER,

President General of the Sons of the American Revolution,

and

HON. JOHN LEE CARROLL,

President General of the Sons of the Revolution:

The Committees of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION and Sons of the Revolution, to whom was entrusted by their respective Societies the duty of conferring upon the question of union of the two Societies, beg leave to present this, their joint report.

First: They desire to express their gratification at the cordiality, harmony, and enthusiasm that have marked their deliberations, and the unanimity which has attended their conclusions.

Second: The desirability of effecting a union being concurred in by all, the Committees of Conference addressed themselves at once to the consideration of the questions essential to the accomplishment of the desired result. These were:

1. Name.
2. Colors.
3. Insignia.
4. New Constitution.

Third: The committees unanimously decided and do now recommend:

1. That THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION and Sons of the Revolution do unite in one organization.
2. That the Society so constituted be named Sons of the Revolution.
3. That its colors be buff and blue.
4. That its insignia be, in its general features, that of THE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION; that its seal be of the form hereinafter described.
5. That its constitution be as follows:

The Constitution of the General Society

of the

Sons of the Revolution.

ARTICLE I.

The name of the Society shall be the "SONS OF THE REVOLUTION."

ARTICLE II.

The objects of this Society are, to perpetuate the memory of the men who, in the military, naval or civil service of the Colonies and of the Continental Congress, by their acts or counsel, achieved the Independence of the Country; to further the proper celebration of the anniversaries of the birthday of Washington, and of prominent events connected with the War of the Revolution; to collect and secure for preservation the rolls, records and other documents relating to that period; to mark by appropriate monuments historic places; to impress upon the present and future generations the patriotic spirit which actuated our ancestors and established the Republic of the United States, and to promote the feeling of friendship among its members.

ARTICLE III.

Any man is eligible to membership who is of the age of twenty-one years and who is lineally descended from an ancestor who, with unflinching loyalty, rendered material aid to the cause of American Independence as a military officer, minute-man, soldier, sailor or marine, or a civil official in the service of any of the several Colonies or States or of the United Colonies or States, whose services as such official shall appear by public official record made at the time, and provided such man be found worthy.

Provided further, that when the claim of eligibility is based on the service of an ancestor as a civil official, such service must have been performed in the civil service of the United States, or of one of the thirteen original States, and must have been sufficiently important in character to have rendered the official specially liable to arrest and imprisonment, the same as a combatant, if captured by the enemy, as well as liable to conviction of treason against the Government of Great Britain.

And provided further, that when there shall be no surviving issue in direct lineal succession from an officer, minute-man, soldier, sailor or marine, who died or was killed in actual service, or from an officer who received by formal resolve the approbation of the Continental Congress for Revolutionary services, or from a signer of the Declaration of Independence, the claim of eligibility shall descend and be limited to one representative at a time in the nearest collateral line of descent from such ancestor, to be designated by the State Society; and no other descendants in collateral lines shall be admitted in right of any services whatever.

The Board of Managers of each State Society shall have full and exclusive power to determine the qualifications as to worthiness and eligibility of applicants for membership under this Article, with power to accept or reject all applications.

ARTICLE IV.

The General Society shall be divided into State Societies, which shall meet annually on

the day appointed therefor in their respective by-laws, and oftener, if found expedient. The Secretary of each State Society shall transmit to the General Secretary a list of its members, together with the names and official designations of those from whom such members claim membership, with a list of officers elected at each annual meeting.

ARTICLE V.

The State Societies shall regulate all matters respecting their own affairs consistent with the general good of the Society, judge of the qualification of their members and of those proposed for membership, subject, however, to the provisions of this Constitution, and may expel any member who, by conduct unbecoming a gentleman or man of honor, or by an opposition to the interests of the community in general, or of the Society in particular, may render himself unworthy to continue in membership.

ARTICLE VI.

The expenses of the General Society shall be borne by the State Society by assessment *pro rata* according to membership.

ARTICLE VII.

The regular meeting of the General Society shall be held every year on the last Wednesday of April in the city of New York, unless otherwise designated, and special meetings may be held upon the order of the General President or upon the request of two of the State Societies, and such meetings shall consist of the General Officers and a representation from each State Society not exceeding one delegate from each one hundred members of such State Society and every fraction of one hundred over fifty, and *ex-officio*, the President, Secretary, Registrar and Historian of each State Society, and two delegates-at-large from each State Society.

The expenses attending the annual meetings of the General Society shall be borne by the General Society.

ARTICLE VIII.

At the regular meeting a General President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Registrar and Historian shall be chosen by a majority of the votes present, to serve until the next regular general meeting or until their successors are duly chosen.

The General Society shall have power at any meeting to admit State Societies thereto, and to entertain and determine all questions affecting the qualification for membership in, or the welfare of, any State Society, which may by proper memorial be presented by such State Society for consideration.

ARTICLE IX.

The Insignia of the General Society shall be a cross surmounted by an eagle in gold or silver, and a rosette.

The cross shall be of silver, with four arms, and eight white-enamelled points, same size as the Chevalier's Cross of the Legion of Honor of France, with a gold medallion in the center, bearing on the obverse a bust of Washington in profile, and on the reverse the figure of a minute-man surrounded by a ribbon enamelled buff and blue, with the motto, "Libertas et Patria," on the obverse, and the legend, "Sons of the Revolution," on the reverse, both in letters of gold. The cross shall be surmounted by an eagle in gold or silver, and the whole decoration suspended from a ring of gold by a ribbon of dark blue, ribbed and watered, edged with buff, one and one-quarter inches wide and one and one-half inches in displayed length, and may be worn by any member of the Society on ceremonial occasions only, and shall be carried on the left breast, or, if an officer, on the collar, and shall never be worn as an article of jewelry. The custodian of this insignia shall be the General Secretary, who shall issue the same to the members of the Society under such proper rules as may be formulated by the General Society, and he shall keep a register of such issues, wherein each insignia issued may be identified by the number thereof.

The rosette shall be seven-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, of usual pattern, displaying the colors of the Society, and may be worn by all members at discretion in the upper left-hand button-hole of the coat.

ARTICLE X.

The Seal of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution shall be one and seven-eighths of an inch in diameter and shall consist of the figure of a minute-man in Continental Uniform standing on a ladder leading to a beltry and holding in his left hand a musket and an olive branch, and grasping in his right hand a bell rope; above, the cracked "Liberty Bell;" issuing therefrom a ribbon, bearing the motto of the Sons of the Revolution, "*Everi Monumentum Aere Perennius*;" across the top of the ladder, on a ribbon, the figures "1775," and at the left of the minute-man, and also on a ribbon, the figures "1783;" the whole encircled by a band three-eighths of an inch wide, thereon at the top thirteen stars of five points each, and at the bottom the legend, "Sons of the Revolution;" the following being a fac-simile thereof.

The custodian of the seal shall be the General Secretary.

ARTICLE XI.

This Constitution may be amended, provided two-thirds of the members of the General Society present at any general meeting or special meeting shall approve, and provided further, that notice of such motion to amend, specifying such proposed amendment in full, shall be given in writing to the presiding officer of the General Society and of each State Society at least sixty days before such motion is to be considered.

Fourth: That this proposed union may be made effectual this Committee further recommends:

1. The presentation of its report to the respective National Societies of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION and Sons of the Revolution at meetings to be called for that purpose on Thursday, the 10th day of February, 1893, in the City of New York, and the adoption at such meetings of a resolution recommending the union of the two societies and the adoption of the proposed Constitution.

2. At a joint meeting, immediately thereafter, of the two General Societies, the adoption of the new Constitution and election of officers, to serve until the last Wednesday of April, 1894, or until their successors are elected.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
New York, December 22, 1892.

FRED'K S. TALLMADGE,

President of the Sons of the Revolution of the
State of New York.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL,

President of the Connecticut Society Sons of the
American Revolution.

CHAS. H. WOODRUFF,

Delegate New York Sons of the Revolution.

HORACE PORTER,

President General Society Sons of the American
Revolution and Chairman General Conference
Committee.

JOHN LEE CARROLL,

General President Society of Sons of the Revolution.

BRADLEY T. JOHNSON,

President Maryland Society Sons of the American
Revolution.

EDWIN SHEPARD BARRETT,

President Massachusetts Society Sons of the American
Revolution.

JOHN WHITEHEAD,
President New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution.

O. H. ERNST,
Delegate from District of Columbia Sons of the Revolution.

WM. RIDGLEY GRIFFITH,
Delegate from Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution.

THOMAS W. HALL,
Delegate from Maryland Society Sons of the Revolution.

SAM W. PENNYPACKER,
Delegate Sons of the Revolution of Pennsylvania.

RICHARD McCALL CADWALADER,
Vice-President and Delegate Sons of the Revolution of Pennsylvania.

CHARLES HENRY JONES,
Delegate Sons of the Revolution of Pennsylvania.

ROBERT LENOX BELKNAP,
Delegate New York Society Sons of the Revolution.

JAMES MORTIMER MONTGOMERY,
Secretary of Committee of Conference,
General Secretary Sons of the Revolution.
Secretary of Sons of the Revolution State of New York.

NATHAN WARREN,
Registrar Massachusetts Society Sons of the American Revolution.

This plan proved far from satisfactory to the larger Society, THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, for it (1) surrendered our name for that of the Sons of the Revolution; (2) gave up our colors for theirs; (3) abandoned our seal for theirs; and (4) proposed a Constitution composed largely of verbatim provisions from theirs, and containing many objectionable features. Among the latter was the provision admitting members by collateral descent. THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION prided themselves especially upon their exclusion of "collaterals" and the incorporation in the proposed Constitution of the "collateral" provision of the Sons of the Revolution was regarded as a lowering of the standard of eligibility to which the "American" Sons were extremely reluctant to accede. Nevertheless, so earnest was the desire of the S. A. R. Congress to effect a union, that the delegates reluctantly yielded their preferences and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Report be accepted and its recommendations adopted, and that when we adjourn it be to meet in joint session with the Sons of the Revolution to carry into effect the recommendations of said Report and perfect the union of the two Societies. Provided, that we reserve the right of every individual member of either body to offer any amendment, which he may think proper to the plan of union or the Constitution, for the consideration of the joint meeting of the two Societies.

This action was announced to the Congress of the Sons of the Revolution, with the result that, after the midday recess, the Sons of the Revolution sent to THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION a delegation, headed by Fredk. S. Tallmadge, President of their New York State Society. Mr. Tallmadge addressed THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, rehearsing the efforts of the joint Committee to prepare a satisfactory report, stating that "every ground was gone over," and continuing:

"This meeting, as we understand it, is to adopt or reject that Report and that Constitution, and if there is anything imperfect about it that needs amendment, let it be made at some future time. But when we are just on the eve of uniting under the same roof, with our hearts beating almost as one, don't let us, for a trifling objection, leave and part to-night, perhaps to meet no more."

He then announced that the Sons of the Revolution had adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That we recommend the union of the Sons of the Revolution and THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, and the adoption of the Constitution proposed by the committees of said Societies by the Report received at this meeting."

and concluded as follows:

"We desire, as it is towards the close of the afternoon, that you will pass a resolution similar to that and that my friends who are here (for I am proud to call them such) will simply say, Away with debate! Away with amendments! Let the future take care of itself. Let us unite with one name and one country."

Upon the withdrawal of the delegation of the Sons of the Revolution, the President General of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, General Horace Porter, delivered with great dignity, earnestness and force a strong appeal to his compatriots to exercise patience and self-sacrifice, and accept the proposed basis of union. Some further discussion ensued, resulting in the adoption verbatim by the S. A. R. of the resolution reported by Mr. Tallmadge as adopted by the Sons of the Revolution, to wit:

Resolved, That we recommend the union of the Sons of the Revolution and THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, and the adoption of the Constitution proposed by the Committee of said Societies by the Report received at the meeting."

This action was communicated to the Sons of the Revolution, who informed the Committee conveying the resolution that they would be down-stairs in a few moments for the joint Congress.

After an interval of an hour and a half, several Sons of the Revolution appeared at the door of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, and the latter rose to their feet and began to applaud. The Sons of the Revolution, however, proved not to be the whole Congress, coming for the purpose of union upon the terms now mutually agreed upon, but a committee conveying an entirely new proposition. The proposition of the Sons of the Revolution was that each General Society appoint

a committee of two members, with power to select a fifth person who should belong to neither Society, who should examine the membership credentials of both Societies and should erase from the list of membership in each of the Societies the name of any member, from whose credentials and application it appeared that he was not entitled to membership under the requirements of Article III. of the Constitution just adopted. As soon as the revised membership list had been certified to the President-Generals of the two Societies, they were to call a joint meeting of the Societies for the adoption of the Constitution (which had already been adopted), and for the election of officers; and "said Constitution, if approved at such meeting, together with the proceedings of this conference or meeting, shall be submitted for final ratification to the various State Societies."

The astonishment of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION at this new proposition was apparent in the absolute silence with which the remarks of the spokesman were received. THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION had no objection to the scrutiny of their membership papers, as they regarded their membership credentials, based on lineal descent, superior to those of the other Society; but they considered the proposal a violation of the agreement just adopted by both Societies which provided that in order "that this proposed union may be made effectual," the respective National Societies should, on Feb. 16, 1893, pass a resolution recommending union and adopt the proposed constitution (as had been done), and at "a joint meeting, *immediately thereafter* of the two General Societies [should occur], the adoption of the new constitution and election of officers to serve until the last Wednesday of April, 1894, or until their successors are elected." The departure from the terms of the agreement was considered the wider in view of statements made earlier in the day by Mr. Tallmadge of the Sons of the Revolution to THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION that "every ground was gone over" and his earnest plea to "away with amendments," etc. After the S. A. R. had yielded reluctantly to this plea and repressed their desired amendments, the Sons of the Revolution appeared with a radical amendment of their own.

The proceedings in the Congress of the S. A. R. after the withdrawal of the Committee of the Sons of the Revolution were brief. After a few remarks, making clear the position of the Society, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That we disapprove of the motion as not pertinent to Paragraph 4 of the Report of the Committee, and we request the other Society now to unite with us and to adopt the Constitution in accordance with that paragraph."

This action was communicated to the Sons of the Revolution, who stood by their new proposition as unanimously as THE SONS OF THE

AMERICAN REVOLUTION had rejected it; upon learning which, THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION adjourned *sine die*.

Apropos of the subject of membership credentials may be quoted the following passage from the official report of the Committee of Conference of the S. A. R. on the foregoing proceedings:

"The refusal of our Society to agree to this new measure was, in no way, attributable to any hesitation on our part to submit our records and credentials to a full and proper examination. . . . Our confidence in our own credentials and in the Society with which we were in treaty was such that a fully representative preliminary conference of our delegates had agreed, by unanimous vote, on the evening of February 15th, to nominate and support the election of the present General Secretary of the Sons of the Revolution as General Secretary of the proposed united Society. He would thus have been the officer to whom, under the proposed Constitution, the credentials of our various State Societies would have been submitted for inspection, and for presentation, after his approval, to the united General Society. The powers conferred upon him would have been fully as great as the powers proposed to be conferred upon the Joint Committee to whose appointment we were unwilling to agree, besides having the merit of authority under the constitution which was to be adopted before the election of officers. The election of this officer, which would have been unanimous on our part, would then, virtually, have placed the inspection of membership in the hands of the Society of Sons of the Revolution, in accordance with its previous usages. It was one of the many concessions we were prepared to make, and had already made, to that Society, not with any desire to adopt its name, colors, seal or officers, but simply in the belief that the importance of uniting the two Societies was paramount to any questions of mere courtesy upon which we might have insisted."

The failure of the Congresses of 1893 to unite, did not, however, put an end to the movement. The cordial relations existing between individual members and individual State Societies of the two General Societies gave evidence, of the hearty sentiment still existing in favor of an amalgamation, and the belief entertained by THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION that the action of the Congress of the Sons of the Revolution on Feb. 16, 1893, did not represent the prevailing sentiment of that Society, led them the more readily to forget the irritating incidents of the late unsuccessful effort. During the next three years the mutual disposition for union increased and on April 20, 1896, the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, at its triennial meeting in Savannah, Ga., adopted resolutions extending a fraternal invitation to THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION to unite with them in a single Society. This was cordially met by the following resolutions adopted by the National Congress of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION at Richmond, Va., April 30, 1896:

"WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION notes, with sincere gratification, the growing sentiment in favor of a union with the Society of the Sons of the Revolution, upon terms which shall be well considered and equitable, and which shall tend to promote the honor, dignity and largest usefulness of the Societies and the patriotic and public spirited objects for which both are organized; and

"WHEREAS, The General Society of the Sons of the Revolution in triennial meeting assembled in the city of Savannah, Ga., April 20, inst., did adopt resolutions, extending a sincere and fraternal invitation to THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION to unite with them in a single Society; and,

WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION is heartily,

sincerely and fraternally desirous of a consolidation of the two Societies, upon a well-considered basis, and is anxious to submit its rolls of membership to a most rigorous and searching examination by a competent and disinterested tribunal, in order that it may, once for all, in the eyes of all men, supply the indubitable proof of the eligibility of all its members, as lineal descendants of Revolutionary ancestors; now, therefore.

Be it Resolved, By THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, in annual Congress assembled in the City of Richmond, Va., April 30, 1896, that we do hereby send our most fraternal and cordial greetings to the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and declare, without reservation, our strong, sincere desire for a consolidation of the two Societies into a single Society, upon a well-considered basis of union.

Resolved, That we do hereby instruct the General Officers of this Society to submit the membership rolls and the original credentials and applications, on which membership has been granted for a fresh examination to a competent and disinterested committee, so constituted by mutual agreement of the General Officers of both Societies as to command the entire confidence of both the uniting Societies, said committee to indicate the person or persons in each Society who shall not have indubitable proof of lineal descent from a Revolutionary ancestor, in accordance with the plan of consolidation agreed to by the Committees of Conference in 1893, but now voluntarily amended by the Sons of the Revolution by omitting the paragraph which provides for the admission of "collaterals;" and THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION does hereby pledge itself to erase from its rolls of membership the names of all persons, indicated by said committee as not having indubitable proof of lineal descent.

Resolved, That we hereby empower the General Officers of this Society to appoint a committee of able, competent and disinterested men, who shall confer with a like committee of equal size, appointed by the General Officers of the Sons of the Revolution, to agree upon a basis for the union of the two Societies, to the end that said plan of union, together with the report of the Committee on Revision of the Membership Rolls, may promptly be transmitted by the General Officers of both Societies to their respective State Societies for approval, so that when a majority of the State Societies of each organization shall have approved the same, said General officers may cause a special Congress of the United Societies to be elected, upon the basis of the new Constitution to form a national organization. And, further, we do hereby pledge THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, heartily and sincerely, to labor for the removal of every possible cause of disagreement between the two Societies, and to effect a satisfactory union at the earliest possible dates.

Resolved, That the President-General and the Secretary-General of this Society are instructed immediately to communicate this preamble and accompanying resolutions to the officers of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, with the assurance of our fraternal regard and our desire that a union of the two Societies may speedily be effected.

This action was followed by an exchange of correspondence between the General Officers of the two Societies.

An May 9, 1896, THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION communicated their resolutions to the other Society.

On May 25, 1896, the Sons of the Revolution wrote that they were prepared to appoint a committee to examine credentials, and that after the membership rolls had been revised they were prepared to unite in a call for a Congress of the two Societies for union on the basis "of the Constitution agreed upon by both Societies, February 16, 1893, as amended by the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution at its triennial meeting in Savannah on the 20th day of April, 1896." This amendment by the Sons of the Revolution consisted of the elimination of the provisions for membership by collateral descent.

On May 29, 1896, THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION replied, inviting the General Officers of the other Society to meet their National

Officers at the Waldorf Hotel, at 3.30 p. m., June 3d, for the purpose of selecting by mutual agreement a committee on membership credentials; promising to strike from their rolls the names of any members found disqualified for membership; and calling attention to the omission of the Sons of the Revolution to respond to the proposition for a joint committee on basis of union. THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION said that the basis agreed upon in 1893 was unsatisfactory in view of existing knowledge and conditions and cited the important amendment proposed by the Sons of the Revolution as a precedent for further modification in the line of improvement.

On June 3, 1896, at 3.30 p. m. the National Officers of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION assembled at the Waldorf Hotel, to meet the General Officers of the other Society, but none appeared.

On June 8, 1896, the Sons of the Revolution wrote that they had no power to appoint a committee on basis of union; that they considered the basis "concluded by the terms of the agreement adopted in 1893," although they insisted on *their* amendment, adopted April 20, 1896.

On July 28, 1896, THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION wrote in part as follows:

"The resolutions of your Society, adopted at Savannah, looked to the formation of a single Society, upon the terms of union set forth in the proposed constitution of February 16, 1893, with an amendment thereto. It was, therefore, naturally supposed that, as your Society had made an amendment to that document, without consultation with this Society, the privilege should be accorded to this Society of taking steps looking to the making of other amendments in consultation with your Society.

"Some of the reasons for believing that it is necessary for both Societies to have conference committees take up the plan of reorganization anew are as follows:

"The proposed constitution of 1893 was prepared when the Societies were small and without large experience in the means of carrying out the purposes of a great national patriotic organization. Of the present members one-half, perhaps, of each Society have joined since the proceedings of 1893; and it would seem fair that they should have a right to be heard in a matter of such importance as a constitution for the government of a permanent union of these organizations.

"The proposed constitution of 1893 is so defective that it is believed that your officers will agree that a large Society could not possibly work successfully under its provisions. For instance, the last paragraph of Article III, states that the Board of Managers of each State Society shall have full and exclusive power to determine the qualifications of applicants for membership, with power to expel or reject all applications. Article VIII. says that the General Society shall have power to admit State Societies and determine all questions affecting the qualifications of membership which may, by proper memorial, be presented for consideration. This language is confusing and seems to be contradictory.

"Besides, that constitution makes no provision for the filing of a copy of the credentials of members with the Registrar General of the National Society, and does not sufficiently define his duties or give him enough power to fix his responsibility in passing upon the validity of credentials.

"It prescribes the form of a seal which we are informed, was long ago adopted by the Washington Continental Guards of New York City, which, having used the seal for many years, would apparently be entitled to continual use of the same without infringement.

"It names the last Wednesday in April as the day for the annual meeting, when it has been the custom of both Societies to meet on some patriotic anniversary which gives a meaning and a purpose to the occasion.

"It also provides that the larger Society shall take the exact name of the smaller Society, and it is assumed that that would mean coming under the charter of the latter Society, and be a complete and absolute absorption by one Society of the other, instead of a union of the two. THE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION has never intimated, and does not now even suggest, that its name be adopted by the joint Society, but thinks that possibly some equally good title, not the exact name of either Society, might be acceptable to both; for instance, the Society of the Revolution or the Society of the American Revolution. The adoption of some such name would be following the almost universal custom in naming patriotic Societies, among which may be named the Society of the Cincinnati, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Society of the Colonial Dames, the Society of Foreign Wars, the Society of the Army of the Potomac, etc., etc. . . . It is advisable, also, to reconsider the subject of name, for the reason that the plan of consolidation should provide for the largest possible usefulness and grandeur of the United Societies. THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION already have a Society in the new republic of Hawaii, where no society of this class could probably exist under the name simply of Sons of the Revolution." It is entirely practicable to form branch Societies in other foreign lands, if the title be specific in indicating that it is the *American* Revolution from which eligibility is derived.

"Again: The constitution of '93 makes no provision for organizing Chapters in the different States. The formation of Chapters is becoming a prominent feature in THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION; it does much for the convenience of the members, and is important as a means of enlarging the membership.

"It therefore seems beyond dispute that the proposed constitution of 1893 in its present form is seriously defective and obsolete.

"If, however, your officers decline even to appoint the conference committee proposed, we would be glad to be informed whether they will, under the circumstances, wish to proceed with the work of scrutinizing the credentials of the members in both Societies. If so, our General Officers instruct me to say that they will be most happy to enter at once upon that branch of the subject, in the hope that the eliminating of one point of dispute will bring the organizations that much nearer a union desired by all.

Upon August 11, 1896, the Sons of the Revolution wrote that they considered the request of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION for a joint committee on basis of union a rejection of their invitation; that they had no authority from their Society for such a committee; and that as the examination of credentials could be of value only in case of prospective union, they could not appreciate the importance of the appointment of a Committee on Credentials unless they were assured that THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION would act on the lines of their invitation.

On September 21, 1896, THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION replied to the foregoing, concluding as follows:

"We understand, that your Society, by correspondence and without the holding of a personal conference between your officers and ours, rejects all our propositions looking to bringing about such action, and instead of co-operating with us with a view to forming a basis of union by mutual agreement, insists upon an absorption of our Society by yours, by taking your name, acting under your charters and conducting the business under a constitution, which has been shown in a previous letter to be seriously defective, obsolete and practically impossible for both. We can only, therefore, express our extreme regret that in spite of the earnest efforts made by this Society, both in 1893 and in the present year, the much desired negotiations for union have been brought to a standstill."

Matters remained in *statu quo* until the adoption of the following resolutions by the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution at its meeting in Philadelphia, Pa., April 19, 1897:

WHEREAS, THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, in response to the invitation contained in the resolution passed by this Society at Savannah in April, 1896, have signified their willingness to unite with us in one national organization.

WHEREAS, We regard, and believe that they regard the actual union of the two Societies as of such paramount importance that the settlement of the details of union should be subordinated, as far as consistent with the honor and dignity of both Societies, to the accomplishment of that end; therefore,

Resolved, That A. H. Pugh, T. E. Abbott, Timothy L. Woodruff, Horace K. Tenney and Gaillard Hunt shall be a committee of five with full power to fill any vacancies in behalf of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution; and we respectfully request THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION to appoint a like committee of five in its own behalf, these two committees of five each to constitute together the above-named joint Committee of Conference on basis of union, which shall consider the Constitution and plan of union of 1893, and all proposed changes thereto, and come to an agreement, if possible, respecting a new general Constitution and a plan of union between the Societies. Each constituent committee of five shall report to its own General Assembly the results of the conference, together with its own recommendations respecting them.

Resolved, That our own General Officers are instructed to arrange as soon as possible with the General Officers of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION for the appointment of a joint Committee of Revision of the membership rolls, which shall be prepared at least as early as October 12, 1897, to make to the two General Assemblies an exhaustive report, in accordance with the resolutions passed at Savannah and Richmond in April, 1896.

Resolved, That we, the General Society of Sons of the Revolution, hereby appoint an adjourned meeting of this General Assembly to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 12, 1897, at 11 A. M., and we respectfully request THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, provided the joint Committee of Conference on basis of union shall have arrived meanwhile at an agreement, to hold a General Assembly of their own in the same city at the same time, in order that the two General Assemblies may then take action upon the report of the two joint committees.

Resolved, That our General Secretary is hereby instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Secretary General of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION responded to the foregoing by adopting the following resolutions at its meeting in Cleveland, April 30, 1897:

WHEREAS, THE SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, in Congress assembled at Cleveland, have received a friendly overture from the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution looking toward the union of the two Societies, a sincere and hearty response to the same is hereby tendered; and,

WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, recognizing the strong and constantly increasing sentiment of the membership favoring organic union with the Society of the Sons of the Revolution, upon terms that shall be honorable to both Societies, desires to use all reasonable efforts towards a consummation so desirable; be it

Resolved, That James M. Richardson, of Ohio; Hon. E. J. Hill, of Connecticut; Samuel E. Cross, of Illinois; George H. Shields, of Missouri, and Nathan Warren, of Massachusetts, be and they are hereby appointed a Committee, with full power to confer with the Committee appointed by the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution on the subject of union between that Society and THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, including power to provide by the appointment, as soon as practicable, of an additional committee, if necessary, for such revision of the membership rolls of the two Societies as may seem expedient.

Resolved, That an adjourned meeting of this Congress shall be held in Cincinnati, October 12, 1897, at 11 A. M., provided the joint Committee on Union shall have agreed on a basis of union, to be reported at that date.

Resolved, That our Secretary General is hereby instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the General Secretary of the Sons of the Revolution.

The joint committee appointed in pursuance of the foregoing resolutions worked assiduously during the next few months, and when the two national bodies met in different rooms in the Grand Hotel in Cincinnati, Oct. 12, 1897, the following report was presented. For convenience of future reference, the three amendments subsequently made are indicated in the following text. The words in very small type inclosed in brackets were in the report as presented, but were stricken out by the two conventions, upon motion of the Sons of the Revolution. The words in italic type were not in the report as presented but were inserted by the conventions as noted hereafter:

To EDWIN SHEPARD BARRETT, President-General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution,

And JOHN LEE CARROLL, General President of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution:

The committees of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION and the Sons of the Revolution, who were appointed by their respective Societies to confer together upon the subject of union of the two Societies, beg leave to report jointly for the consideration of each Society the result of their labors.

First: They were profoundly impressed by evidences of a universal sentiment favoring union reaching them from members of both National Societies, as well as with the cordiality and harmony inspiring the members of the Committees, who approached the difficult and delicate task assigned them with great deliberation and with a deep sense of responsibility.

Second: The two Committees met, on the call of their respective Chairmen, in a joint conference on basis of Union, and after a careful consideration of the Constitution and Plan of Union of 1893, and proposed changes thereto, unanimously decided upon and do now recommend the adoption of the following Basis of Union:

Basis of Union.

1. The members of the two National Societies unite in forming the National Society of the American Revolution by the adoption of the Constitution hereinafter following and the election of officers as provided therein, at a meeting to be held jointly in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, October 12, 1897.

2. The General Board of Managers shall designate the Colors, Seal and Insignia and direct a rule or rules for wearing Insignia and use of Colors.

3. The Insignia of either or both existing Societies may be worn on ceremonial occasions with the Insignia of the United Society or alone.

4. The State Societies of both existing Societies shall report the adoption of a Constitution in accordance with the new National Constitution, to the Secretary General promptly on that action being taken, or united State organization effected.

5. The Treasurer-General of each existing National Society shall turn over to the new Treasurer-General when he shall be duly qualified, all balances in their respective treasuries, taking his vouchers therefor.

6. The Registrars-General of the two existing Societies shall turn over all records and documents in their respective offices to the new Registrar-General when he shall have been duly qualified, taking his voucher therefor.

7. The Constitution recommended herein shall become operative by virtue of its ratification by the delegates of a majority of the States of each National Society voting at the joint meeting of the two National Societies contemplated.

Constitution

of the

National Society of the American Revolution.

PREAMBLE.

We, the lineal descendants of Revolutionary Sires, inspired by the heroic deeds of a liberty-loving ancestry, in order to form a more perfect union of patriotic men, to foster true patriotism and love of country; to cherish and maintain the institutions of American freedom, do ordain this Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

The name of the Society shall be "THE SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION."

ARTICLE II.

The objects of this society are, to perpetuate the memory of the men who, in the military, naval or civil service of the Colonies and the Continental Congress, by their acts or counsel, achieved the Independence of this country; to further proper celebrations of the anniversaries of the birthday of Washington, and of prominent events connected with the War of the Revolution; to collect, publish and secure for preservation the rolls, records and other documents relating to that period; to mark by appropriate monuments historic places; to impress upon the present and future generations the patriotic spirit which actuated our ancestors in establishing the Republic of the United States, and to promote the feeling of friendship among its members.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. Any male person above the age of twenty-one years, of good character, and a lineal descendant of an ancestor who shall be proven by official record or other equivalent evidence to have served as a military, naval, or marine officer; soldier, sailor, or marine, in actual service, under the authority of any of the thirteen Colonies or States, of the Continental Congress, or Vermont, or a lineal descendant of one who signed the Declaration of Independence, or of one who, as a member of the Continental Congress, or of the Congress of any of the Colonies or States, or as an official appointed by or under the authority of any such legislative bodies, actually assisted in the establishment of American Independence by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain during the War of the American Revolution, prior to the declaration of peace, in 1783, shall be eligible to membership in the Society.

Provided, That when the claim of eligibility is based on the service of an ancestor in the "minute men" or "militia," it must be satisfactorily shown that such ancestor was actually called into the service of one of the thirteen original States, or Vermont, or United States, and performed military duties; and

Provided further; That when the claim of eligibility is based on the service of an ancestor as a "sailor" or "marine," it must in like manner be shown that such service was other than shore duty and regularly performed in the Continental Navy, or the Navy of one of the original thirteen States, or Vermont, or on an armed vessel, and other than a merchant ship, which sailed under letters of marque and reprisal, and that such ancestor of the applicant was duly enrolled in the ship's company, either as an officer, seaman, or otherwise than as a passenger; and

Provided further, That when the claim of eligibility is based on the service of an ancestor as an "official," such service must have been performed in the Civil Service of the United States, or of one of the thirteen original States, or Vermont, and must have been sufficiently important in character to have rendered the official liable to arrest and imprisonment, the same as a combatant, if captured by the enemy.

In the construction of this article, the Volunteer Aides-de-Camp of General Officers in the Continental Service, who were duly announced as such and who actually served in the field during a campaign, shall be comprehended as having performed qualifying service.

No service of an ancestor shall be deemed as qualifying service for membership in THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION where such ancestor, after assisting in the cause of American Independence, shall have subsequently either adhered to the enemy, or failed to maintain an honorable record throughout the War of the Revolution.

No person shall be admitted unless he be eligible under one of the provisions of this article, nor unless he be of good moral character and be judged worthy of becoming a member.

SECTION 2. That every member of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution and of THE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION in good standing at the time of the adoption of this constitution, who has been admitted to either of these societies under their respective constitutions and the by-laws of their respective National Societies, shall be enrolled as a member of this society; *subject, however, to the approval of the Joint Committee on Revision of Membership Rolls.*

SECTION 3. Applications for membership shall be made to any State Society, in duplicate, upon blank forms prescribed by the General Board of Managers, and shall in each case set forth the name, occupation and residence of the applicant, his line of descent, and the name, residence, and services of his ancestor or ancestors in the Revolution, from whom he derives eligibility. The applicant shall make oath or affirmation that the statements of his application are true, to the best of his knowledge and belief. Upon the approval of an application by the State Society, to which it is made, one copy shall be transmitted to the Registrar-General of the National Society, who shall examine the same and upon approval notify the Secretary of the State Society. If satisfied that the application is not properly made out, he shall return it for correction. No election of a new member shall be valid, unless his eligibility shall be approved by the Registrar-General.

ARTICLE IV.

NATIONAL AND STATE SOCIETIES.

SECTION 1. The National Societies shall embrace all the members of the State Societies now existing, or which may hereafter be established under this Constitution.

SECTION 2. Whenever in any State or Territory, in which a State Society does not exist, or in which a State Society has become inactive or failed for two years to pay its annual dues to the National Society, fifteen or more persons duly qualified for membership in this Society may associate themselves as a State Society of the [War for American Independence*] *American Revolution*, and organize in accordance with this Constitution; they may be admitted by the General Board of Managers of the National Society as The ——— Society of the American Revolution, and shall thereafter have exclusive local jurisdiction in the State or Territory, or in the District in which they are organized, subject to the provisions of this Constitution; this provision shall not be construed so as to exclude the admission of members living in other States.

SECTION 3. Each State Society shall judge of the qualifications of its members and of those proposed for membership, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, and shall regulate all matters pertaining to its own affairs. It shall have authority to establish local chapters within its own jurisdiction and to endow the chapters with such power as it may deem proper not inconsistent with this Constitution. It shall have authority, after due notice and impartial trial, to expel any member, who, by conduct unbecoming a gentleman, shall render himself unworthy to remain a member of the Society.

SECTION 4. Each State Society shall submit to the Annual Congress of the National Society a report, setting forth, by name, the additions, transfers and deaths, and any other changes in the membership and progress of the State Society during the preceding year, and make such suggestions, as it shall deem proper for the promotion of the objects of the whole Society.

SECTION 5. Whenever a member, in good standing in his Society, changes his residence from the jurisdiction of the State Society of which he is a member, to that of another, he shall be entitled, if he so elects, to a certificate of honorable dismission from his own State Society, in order that he may be transferred to the State Society to whose jurisdiction he has changed his residence; provided, that his membership shall continue in the former until he shall have been elected a member of the latter. Each State Society shall, however, retain full control of the admission of members by transfer.

SECTION 6. Whenever the word "State" occurs in this Constitution, it shall be held to include within its meaning the District of Columbia and the Territories of the United States.

SECTION 7. A Society may be formed in any foreign country by fifteen or more persons who are eligible to membership under this Constitution, which shall bear the same relation to the National Society as a State Society, subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

* The above amendment was for the correction of a typographical oversight, and has an interesting history. In the preliminary negotiations of the conference committees, the Sons of the Revolution had proposed the name "Society of the Revolution" and the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION proposed the name "Society of the American Revolution." When it appeared that the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION would tenaciously adhere to the word "American" and the Sons of the Revolution as tenaciously oppose it, Lieut. Gov. Woodruff of the latter proposed as a compromise the title "The Society of American Independence." Mr. Warren, of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION proposed the insertion of the words "the War for," making the title, "The Society of the War for American Independence." This title was regarded as cumbersome by both committees, but seemed to be the best that could be agreed upon and was printed in the report which it was proposed to submit to the two conventions on October 12, 1897. On October 11, however, Messrs. Pugh and Hunt of the Sons of the Revolution informed Mr. Richardson of the S. A. R. committee that the S. R. were willing to accept the title proposed by the S. A. R., and at a joint meeting that evening, the title "Society of the American Revolution" was adopted. In the reports hastily reprinted for submission the following day, the title was not corrected in the above instance.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS.

SECTION 1. The General Officers of the National Society shall be, President-General, five Vice-President-General, Secretary-General, Assistant Secretary-General, Treasurer-General, Assistant Treasurer-General, Registrar-General, Assistant Registrar-General, Historian-General, Chancellor-General and Chaplain-General, who shall be elected by ballot by vote of the majority of the members present at the annual meeting of the Congress of the National Society and shall hold office for one year and until their successors shall be elected.

SECTION 2. The General Officers shall constitute the General Board of Managers of the National Society, which Board shall have authority to adopt and promulgate the By-Laws of the National Society, to prescribe the duties of the General Officers to provide the seal, to designate and make regulations for the issue of the insignia, and to transact the general business of the National Society during the intervals between the sessions of the Congress. Meetings of the General Board may be held, after not less than ten days' notice, at the call of the President-General, or, in case of his absence or inability, at the call of the Senior Vice-President-General, certified by the Secretary-General. Meetings shall be called at the request of seven members. At all such meetings seven shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 3. An Executive Committee of seven, of whom the President-General shall be the Chairman, may be elected by the Board of Managers, which Committee shall, in the interim between the meetings of the Board, transact such business as shall be delegated to it by the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE VI.

Each State Society shall pay annually to the Treasurer-General to defray the expenses of the National Society, twenty-five cents for each active member thereof. All such dues shall be paid on or before the first day of April in each year, for the ensuing year, in order to secure representation in the meetings of the National Society.

ARTICLE VII.

MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the National Society for the election of the General Officers and for transaction of business, shall be held on the 19th day of April of each year, unless the same falls on Sunday, when it shall be held on the 20th. The time, hour and place of such meeting shall be designated by the Board of Managers.

SECTION 2. Special meetings of the Congress may be called by the President-General, and shall be called by him when directed so to do by the Board of Managers, or whenever requested in writing so to do by at least three State Societies, on giving thirty days' notice, specifying the time and place of such meetings and the business to be transacted.

SECTION 3. The following shall be members of all such annual or special meetings of the Congress and shall be entitled to vote therein:

- (1) All the officers and ex-Presidents-General of the National Society.
- (2) The President and Secretary of each State Society as delegates at large.
- (3) One delegate from each State Society for each one hundred members of the Society within a State, and for a fraction of fifty members or over.

ARTICLE VIII.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any meeting of the National Society, when the same shall have been recommended by a State Society. A notice of the proposed amendment or alteration shall be sent by the Secretary General to the President of each Society sixty days in advance of such meeting. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the States present shall be necessary for their adoption.

ARTICLE IX.

This Constitution shall take effect when ratified by a majority of the [States of each National Society voting in Joint Meeting] *State Societies of each National Society.*

We would respectively recommend that in the event of the adoption of our report by the two National bodies to whom it is submitted, that they immediately meet together in joint session for the purpose of completing the organization herein provided for.

For the Sons of the Revolution:

ACHILLES HENRY PUGH,
Chairman,
TIMOTHY L. WOODRUFF,
HORACE KENT TENNEY,
GAILLARD HUNT.

For the Sons of the American Revolution:

JAMES M. RICHARDSON,
Chairman,
GEORGE H. SHIELDS,
NATHAN WARREN,
EBENEZER J. HILL,
SAMUEL EBERLY GROSS.

The Congress of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION adopted the report of the Joint Committee unanimously without amendment. About 5.30 P. M. a committee from the Sons of the Revolution appeared and reported that they had adopted the constitution by a majority * with some amendments. (The amendments are indicated in the foregoing text.) They reported that they had also adopted the following:

"Resolved. That a committee of five be appointed to communicate the action of this General Society of the Sons of the Revolution to THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, which has been taken upon the question of the union of the two Societies, and upon the question of the adoption of the new Constitution, and that said Committee be empowered to request similar action upon the part of THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. And, further, to agree upon a time and place of meeting of the Joint Committees of the two Societies, for the purpose of fully perfecting the union of the two Societies in the event of a majority of the State Societies approving of the action of the General Society."

"Resolved. That each State Society of the Sons of the Revolution and THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION shall submit the papers of their respective Societies to the Registrar of the other Society for examination. That after such examination shall be had each Registrar shall certify to the eligibility of each member of the other Society under the National Constitution of the Society of which he is a member. In case any doubt shall arise as to the correctness of any paper, then such doubtful paper shall be submitted to the Joint Committee on Re-

* It was subsequently stated that the delegation of 16 States voted for the Constitution, 10 voted against it, 1 was divided, and 3, including the New York delegation, did not vote.

vision of Membership Rolls. In case there is any jurisdiction in which there is only one Society, such papers shall also be submitted to the said Joint Committee on Revision of Membership Rolls."

"Resolved, That the Committee on the Revision of Rolls, appointed under the resolution adopted April 19, 1897, be and is hereby continued in office, and is authorized and directed to at once proceed, in conjunction with the Committee appointed for that purpose by THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, to examine, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution as amended, reported by the joint conference, the rolls of the members of THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION and the General Society of the SONS of the Revolution, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any member in either society is not in fact entitled to membership therein. And upon the report of the Joint Committee thus formed all members not found to have been entitled to membership in their respective National Societies, under their own Constitution and By-Laws, be held not to be entitled to membership of the Society of the American Revolution, but stricken from their rolls, unless within such reasonable time as shall be approved by said Committee such members shall prove their rights to such membership."

Upon the withdrawal of the Committee of the Sons of the Revolution, THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION unanimously accepted and adopted the resolutions and amendments proposed by the former society. They appointed Dr. E. M. Gallaudet, of District of Columbia, Maj. Chas. K. Darling, of Massachusetts; Gen. George H. Shields, of Missouri; Stephen M. Wright, of New York, and L. E. Holden, of Ohio, a committee having the same purpose and authority as the corresponding committee of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and to act with the latter committee. They also appointed as a Committee on the Revision of Rolls, A. Howard Clark, of District of Columbia, D. W. Manchester, of Ohio; William S. Stryker, of New Jersey; Edward Hagaman Hall, of New York, and William J. Rhees, of District of Columbia.

The corresponding committees appointed by the Sons of the Revolution were as follows: Committee to agree upon time and place of meeting of the United Society in the event of ratification; Achilles Henry Pugh, Rudard Hurd, Gaillard Hunt, Persifor M. Cooke and E. Morgan Wood. Committee on Revision of Rolls, Charles Henry Jones of Pennsylvania, T. E. V. Smith of New York, R. F. Stevens of New Jersey, H. O. Thompson of Maryland and Rudard Hurd of Minnesota.

Upon the adjournment of the Cincinnati conventions, the proposed Constitution was submitted to the State Societies for ratification. THE EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION voted upon the question at a special meeting held November 15, 1897, at which 456 votes were cast in favor of ratification and 7 against. The other Societies voted at their convenience, with the following result:

Ratifying: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. 32.

Rejecting: Oregon. 1.

Not acting: Connecticut.

No reports: France, Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Texas 4.

The New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution voted upon the question at a meeting held November 16, 1897, at which a wide divergence of opinion was manifest. Those opposed to union moved the rejection of the Cincinnati Constitution outright. Those in favor of union moved to amend by providing for the appointment of a committee which should propose such modifications as would meet the objections. The amendment was lost by a vote of 142 to 162 and later the motion to reject was carried by a vote of 171 to 67.

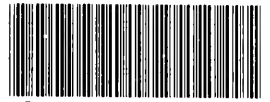
On March 16, 1898, the General Secretary of the Sons of the Revolution reported that their State Societies had voted as follows:

Ratifying: District of Columbia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio. 6.

Rejecting: California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington. 17.

No action: Colorado and Missouri. 2.

A majority of the State Societies of the Sons of the Revolution having refused to ratify, the union failed to become effective, and *pour parlers* between the two Societies upon the subject have ceased.



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